

Farm Service Agency

Box Elder County News
September & October 2006

County Information

Office Hours
Monday – Friday
7:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Address:
85 S 1st E
Tremonton, UT 84337

Phone Numbers:
435-257-5402
435-257-1930 Fax

Staff:
James R Hall CED
Scott Bown FLM
Marc Henrie FLO
Julie Richins PT
Marilyn Pali PT
Sharon Bowen PT
Barbie Madsen PT

County Committee
Robert Adams Chairperson
Curtis Marble Vice- Chairperson
Kent McMurdie Member
Tamara Wood Committee Advisor

COC Elections

The Box Elder County Committee Elections are in full swing. It is crucial that every eligible producer take part in this election because county committees are a direct link between the farm community and USDA.

Agriculture producers in LAA 2 (Howell, Snowville, Park Valley, Grouse Creek, Ect...) will be electing their representative on the county committee.

Producers will be receiving their ballots in the mail around November 3.

You have until December 4 to return voted ballots to the FSA office.

DCP

Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program

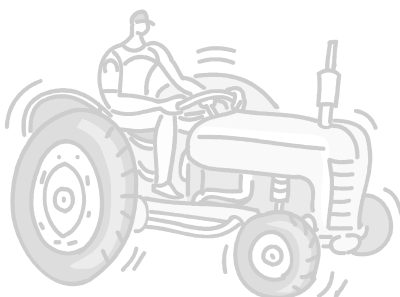
The last day to enroll your farm in 2006 DCP is September 30, 2006. You will be required to pay a \$100 late file fee for each farm you enroll.

Producers who enrolled their farm in 2006 DCP can expect to receive their final direct payment soon after October 1, 2006.

This commodity based program is not a continuous program. Contracts for the DCP program must be updated each year. **Sign-up for 2007 DCP begins October 1, 2006** with advanced payments available after December 1, 2006.

NOTE: Changes have been made to the DCP program concerning advanced payments. In the 2007 crop year, producers will be able to receive a 22% advanced payment.

Update your farm records. Changes made to your operation and acreage totals can affect your payments and compliance with programs.



Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) can soften financial losses caused by natural disasters, but only if you have applied for coverage and paid the application fee. NAP is like an insurance policy.

NAP is a federally funded program that provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs as a result of natural disasters. NAP also provides coverage for crops for which the catastrophic level of insurance is not available.

If your crop is not eligible for crop insurance, then you can purchase NAP coverage for your crops. It is \$100 per crop, not to exceed \$300 per producer per county, or not to exceed \$900 for a multi-county producer. **December 1, 2006 is the final day to sign up for 2007 NAP coverage.**

Just like filing a claim, producers who have a NAP contract on file with this office need to file a NOTICE OF LOSS when it becomes apparent that a covered crop or pasture has been damaged by drought, frost, insects, etc. This Notice of Loss should be filed within 15 days of when the damage is apparent – no matter how significant the loss may seem at the time.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Crop Insurance

Federal Crop Insurance has made some changes to their forage programs.

Irrigated alfalfa hay or forage will be insurable for eight years after the year of establishment. Alfalfa stands 9 years old and older may be insured as an alfalfa grass mixture type as long as there are at least 1.2 living alfalfa plants per square foot. No maximum age limitation applies.

This expanded coverage essentially makes all irrigated alfalfa and alfalfa grass mixture eligible for crop insurance, which means they are not eligible for coverage under our NAP program.

The crop insurance sales closing date for wheat, barley, and forage (alfalfa and alfalfa/grass mixtures) coverage for the 2007 crop year is October 31, 2006.

The closing date for Oats, Safflower, & Corn is March 15, 2007, closing date for Apples is November 20, 2006. Onions closing date is February 1, 2007

Crop Insurance policies are available from private insurance agents. A list of agents is available at this office or at <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents>

Producer Certification for Insurance Companies

Private insurance representatives are now required to provide to the FSA county office a signed statement from the insured individual specifying the crop year and the related documents the producer wants copied for the insurance agency.

The insurance agent will then be charged for these documents at the rate of \$0.20 per page/side for copies of the FSA-578, Report of Acreage, and \$1.00 per copy for map photo copies.

If the statement by the producer is not provided and payment received, the documents will not be released to the insurance agent or representative.

Reporting Farm Information

It is the producer's responsibility to report their farm operation completely and accurately.

Nobody needs reminded that farming and ranching in today's modern marketplace has become a complicated business. Gone are the days when most of us could sell cattle over a handshake and marketing grain meant delivering it to the local elevator. In today's complex business world, new importance has been placed on ensuring that all aspects of farming and ranching are covered with detailed and legally binding contracts.

Government paperwork is no different. In fact, as FSA implements the programs authorized by the Farm Bill, we have grown to realize that it is extremely important that all FSA farm records accurately represent how your operation is being conducted.

For example, producers have now found themselves in hot water because the FSA paperwork reflected their operation as a partnership when the state's tax records indicated that they had formed a corporation. Others have been penalized because the operating name on the FSA records was different than the name the producers used in doing business with suppliers or processors. While the local tractor dealer may know that John Farm really means John and Jane Farmer or that the Lazy R is another name for Stan Rancher's operation, government computers cannot make the connection.

Please take the time to review the forms on file in your FSA County Office. Your payment limitation forms should provide an accurate picture of your operation. The same shares should carry through on the DCP contracts, crop reporting shares, etc. In addition, it's just as important that all your commodity contracts, accounts with businesses that provide receipts for FSA documentation, etc., are in the same name of the entity as represented by our farm records. The county office staff is available to answer any questions you may have on this important issue.

NAP Deadline Approaching

The NAP (Non Insured Assistance Program) can soften financial losses caused by natural disasters, but only if you have applied for coverage and paid the application fee. This program can be likened to an insurance policy.

NAP is a federally funded program that can help cover prevented planting or crop loss due to natural disasters. It is available.

If your crop is not eligible, you may be eligible for producer, per county, or NAP coverage.

Just like filing a claim, a covered crop or pasture is apparent—no matter how it is harvested.

Important: Additional covered crops. This is a consequence that will affect the Committee.

Make sure to timely file for determining quantities or any are required.

Conservation Reserve Program

Our office is in the process of completing the on-site inspections for CRP contracts that were scheduled to expire between 2007 and 2010. Many of these contracts are in need of some maintenance practice. Maintenance and weed control are part of your responsibility as a contract holder. We have also found fields with bindweed (morning glory) that are not being controlled. There are several ways to maintain your CRP acreage such as clipping, harrowing, mowing, burning, spraying for weeds, etc.

The CRP program now allows managed grazing of CRP acreage every third year. You must apply for this at the FSA office to see if your fields are eligible and obtain a modified conservation plan. Haying can begin on July 15th and grazing can occur between September 1st and December 28th. A 25% reduction of your annual payment will apply. Failure to obtain approval before haying or grazing begins will be treated as a contract violation and penalties or contract termination will result.

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DO YOU QUALIFY??

It's time again to get signed up for the conservation assistance programs. Local farmers and ranchers who apply and go through a qualification ranking process may be eligible to **receive cost-share assistance** by participating in any of the conservation assistance programs offered under the 2002 Farm Bill. The cost share finance assistance can be up to 50% on Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and up to 75% on Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP).

The 2002 Farm Bill offers America's farmers and ranchers more incentives than ever before to voluntarily conserve natural resources on our nation's privately owned farmland. Its conservation provisions help reduce erosion, guard streams and rivers, restore and establish fish and wildlife habitat, and improve air quality. This year's USDA announcement is being made well before the next planting season begins, allowing producers to connect their business decisions to protecting vital natural resources on private working lands. Projects selected will be planned and designed during 2007 for installation in 2008. You can join in on any of these incentives by signing up at the USDA office in Tremonton. **Sign ups are going on now and you have till November 15, 2006 to come in and apply.**

Funds are limited, and contracts will be awarded to those producers who apply conservation practices that will yield the greatest benefit to the conservation goals of the program. To be considered during the upcoming ranking period, **producers must submit their applications on or before November 15, 2006.**

This county alone has been given **over \$7 Million** from these government assistance programs in the last few years. Funds are limited so don't miss out on your chance to receive your part. Don't delay! Come in today to get signed up. **November 15, 2006 is the deadline.** Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS), USDA Service Center, 85 South 100 East, Tremonton, UT. 84337. phone (435) 257-5403 ext 21.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA office and



we will be happy to make any arrangements that are needed.

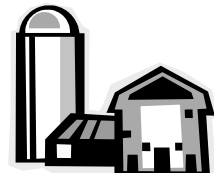
Farm Loan Assistance

FSA makes and guarantees loans to farmers and ranchers who are temporarily unable to obtain private commercial credit.

These may be beginning farmers who can't qualify for conventional loans because of insufficient net worth, or established farmers who have a lack of cash flow to meet bank standards.

These loans are tailored to a producer's needs and may be used for the following purposes:

- Farm Ownership (FO) Loans: used to buy, develop, or expand a farm
- Down Payment (FO) Loans: used to assist beginning farmers and ranchers to purchase a farm or ranch
- Participation Loans: used to assist farmers or ranchers to purchase a farm with the assistance of a lender or the seller
- Farm Operating Loans: used for operating expenses, family subsistence, machinery, livestock, permits, and to refinance debt
- Beginning Farmer Loans: used to help farmers start an operation
- Guaranteed Loans: local lenders ask for assistance from FSA to guarantee their loans for farm ownership or farm operating purposes



focuses on promoting independence for members of the agricultural

Dates to Remember

TODAY	Sign-up for 2006 DCP
TODAY	Turn in CCC-633 EZ page 1 to request LDP before losing beneficial interest
TODAY	Report Farm Changes
Sept. 11 & 12	Office Closed State Training
Sept. 30	Last day to enroll 2006 DCP
Oct. 1	2006 DCP final payments paid
Oct. 1	2007 DCP sign-up begins
Oct. 5	COC Meeting
Oct. 9	Office Closed – Columbus Day
Nov. 3	COC Election ballots mailed
Dec. 1	2007 NAP sign-up deadline
Dec. 4	Last day to return voted ballots

Do

- Family home accessibility survey
- Environmental modifications
- Equipment adaptation and modification
- Information and referral
- Facilitation of independent living
- Individual advocacy
- Peer support
- Coordination of community service
- Education
- Agricultural safety workshops to prevent further injuries

If you or someone you know could use some assistance in making your farm or ranch operation easier because of a disability, please contact this office or:

Rhonda L. Miller, PhD
Project Director
Phone: (435) 797-3772
Toll Free: 1-877-225-1860
Fax: (435) 797-4002
E-mail: rlmiller@cc.usu.edu

Be Counted on the 2007 Census of Agriculture

The 2002 Census of Agriculture counted 2.2 million farms and ranches in the United States. That was down 15% from the 2.6 million farms and ranches counted in 1974.

What changes are in store for the future of agriculture? The 2007 Census of Agriculture will provide the answers.



Every farm and ranch in the nation can expect to receive a mailed Census questionnaire in December 2007. To get an accurate count for 2007, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service must receive a completed report for every farm and ranch in the U.S. The Census is the only source of uniform agricultural data for every county in the U.S. and provides a complete statistical picture of U.S. farms and ranches every five years.

How can YOU benefit from responding to the Census of Agriculture?

- Producers can negotiate for more competitive market prices because they have the same facts as buyers
- Farm organizations use the data to evaluate and propose policies and programs that help the agricultural producer
- Farm service providers can anticipate needs and be more responsive to producers
- Colleges and universities use the data in research programs aimed at increasing agricultural production and profitability
- State departments of agriculture use census data to better serve farmers and ranchers during drought and emergency outbreaks of diseases or infestations of pests
- Rural electric companies use census data to forecast future energy needs for the agricultural producer and the communities they live in
- USDA uses census data to help evaluate participation of farmers and ranchers in its programs and services
- Elected representatives use the data to develop farm policies and programs to protect and promote U.S. agriculture
- Public and private analysts make extensive use of census data in projecting and evaluating results of agricultural programs and events

The information you provide on the Census is kept confidential. For more information about NASS or the Census of Agriculture visit www.nass.usda.gov, or call NASS's Utah Field Office in Salt Lake City at 1-800-747-8522.

Attention Producers

By law FSA is required to provide producers with regulations and available services annually. This is the purpose of this page.

Change in Direct Deposit Account

The Debt Collection Act of 1996 mandates that payments from FSA be directly deposited into a producer's checking or savings bank account. It is important that any change in the producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Delinquent Debtors Barred

Under the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA), producers owing a delinquent non-tax debt to the federal government are ineligible for federal financial assistance, including marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments. The DCIA requirement will apply to 2003 and subsequent crop year MALs and LDPs.

When applying for MALs and LDPs, producers must self-certify that they are not delinquent on any federal non-tax debt. If it is known that the producer has a delinquency on such a debt, the county office cannot approve the request. DCIA also bars a person owing a delinquent non-tax debt to the federal government from receiving direct loans (other than disaster) or loan insurance or guarantee.

Designation by Landowner Method of Division

This method of division may be used when dividing tracts due to sale of land. The owners agree in writing to the division of contract acres between parcels of land. The division may or may not be proportionate to the acres purchased/sold.

Reasonable Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact our office.

Not-Actively Engaged Determinations

Any producers determined to be "Not Actively Engaged in Farming" will be ineligible for most all USDA payments. This includes DCP, gains from marketing loans and loan deficiency payments, CRP annual rental payments, disaster assistance or emergency payments, and any payment or benefit requiring a determination of "actively engaged in farming."

Off-setting Payments Made by FSA

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 does NOT exempt any program payments from being credited toward any FSA delinquent debt owed by the producer. Please call us for more information if you have a concern or feel this may apply to you.

Spot Checks by FSA

All CCC-501s (Members Information), and CCC-502s (Farm Operating Plan for Payment Eligibility Review), are subject to spot check through our end-of-year review process. If selected for a spot check, producers will be asked to submit proof of their contribution to the operation such as seed, fertilizer and chemical bills, land lease agreements, land contracts or property tax payments, equipment lists, cancelled checks for paid labor or hired management and any other items the FSA County Committee determine are necessary.

The producer is required to provide these items for the spot check so that the FSA county committee can make a determination that the farming operation is actually being performed as was stated on the applicable CCC-501 or CCC-502 that was originally completed.

Utah Farm Service Agency Website

Producers may access FSA information and forms at www.fsa.usda.gov/ut



Power of Attorney

If you're too busy getting work done around the farm to come into your local FSA office to conduct business and complete your paperwork, here's a solution. Retain an agent to act on your behalf for programs and transactions authorized under the 2002 Farm Bill and most other FSA administered programs. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is available at your local USDA Service Center or on-line at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Forms obtained and completed outside USDA Service Centers offices must be notarize. To find out more, call the office.

Prevented Planting

Prevented planted acres means that you were unable to plant a crop on the field. If you plant an alternative crop on those acres, those acres are not considered prevented planting. For example, if you intended to plant oats, but subsequently planted corn on the acres, FSA does not consider those acres as prevented planting. If you were unable to plant all of the acres you intended then you need to take action.

You want to make sure you report those acres as prevented planted when you file your acreage report.

If you have crop insurance, talk to your agent NOW. Find out if prevented planted acres are covered under your policy and if restrictions apply. Rules vary by program.

If your crop is covered by NAP, file a Notice of Loss with the office within 15 days of loss, report the acres by the required NAP crop reporting date.

Monitoring Efforts to Prevent Fraud

FSA will be assisting the Risk Management Agency (RMA) and insurance providers to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCI). FSA will monitor crop conditions throughout the growing season; report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse; and assist RMA with auditing claims. Fraud can lead to producer disqualification to participate in FSA programs.

Joke of the Month

Letter to Redneck Son

Dearest Son

I'm writing this slow because I know you can't read fast. We don't live where we did when you left home. Your dad read in the newspaper that most accidents happen within 20 miles of your home, so we moved. I won't be able to send you the address because the last Gander family that lived here took the house numbers when they moved so they wouldn't have to change their address. This place is really nice. It even has a washing machine. I'm not sure about it. I put a load of clothes in and pulled the chain. We haven't seen them since. The weather isn't bad here. It only rained twice last week; the first time for three days and the second time for four days. Auntie Maude has sent you a pair of socks she knit; she put a third one in because she heard you have grown another foot since she last saw you. About that coat you wanted me to send; your Uncle Billy said it would be too heavy to send in the mail with the buttons on, so we cut them off and put them in the pockets. Jimmy locked his keys in the car yesterday. We were really worried because it took him two hours to get me and your father out. Your sister had a baby this morning, but I haven't found out what it is yet, so I don't know if you are an aunt or uncle. The baby looks just like your brother. Uncle Bobby fell into a whiskey vat last week. Some men tried to pull him out but he fought them off and drowned. We had him cremated, he burned for three days. Three of your friends went off a bridge in a pickup truck. Butch was driving. He rolled down the window and swam to safety. Your other two friends were in the back. They drowned because they couldn't get the tailgate down. There isn't much more news at this time. Nothing much out of the normal has happened.

Your Favorite Aunt,

Mom

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
TREMONTON, UT 84337
PERMIT #G13



USDA - Farm Service Agency
Box Elder county FSA Office
85 S 100 E
Tremonton, Ut 84337-1605